



Jukka Jalava

11 March 1950 – 28 December 2005

A prominent Finnish lepidopterist, Jukka Jalava, was born 60 years ago and passed away five years ago, in December 2005. Even though Jukka was a self-taught researcher without academic training, he was recognised as an outstanding expert on the Lepidoptera of Finland and in the micro-moths of the entire Palaearctic region. With his superb “eye for identification” and a wide knowledge of entomology and of natural history in general, Jukka contributed much to the flourishing of microlepidopterology in Finland from the late 1970s.

Jukka Jalava was an enthusiastic and efficient collector. He participated in many Finnish-Soviet/Russian joint expeditions in the 1980s and 1990s to the Altai, Caucasus and Polar Ural Mountains, and to Tuva, Buryatia, Murmansk, Vladivostok and Magadan areas. In the field he collected by day and by night: during the night at light or with baits, and after sorting and preparing material from the previous night he was netting day-flying butterflies and moths. His active field work substantially increased the Lepidoptera collections of the Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki (now the Finnish Museum of Natural History), where he was periodically employed as a museum assistant between 1980 and 1999. Three microlepidopteran species from the Altai Mountains have been named after Jukka Jalava: *Scythris jalavai* Sinev, 1993, *Gnorimoschema jalavai* Povolny, 1994 and *Stephensia jalmarella* Kaila, 1992 (after one of his nicknames “Jalmari”).

Jukka Jalava published about 20 scientific papers (listed below), and described *Nephoterix* (now *Sciota*) *lucipetella* Jalava, 1978 from Finland. He is a co-author of *Elachista adelpha* Kaila & Jalava, 1994, *Elachista coeneni titanella* (now *E. titanella* Kaila & Jalava, 1994) and *Amselghia* (now *Coleophora*) *balkara* Falkovitsh & Jalava, 1997 from North Caucasus, and of *Cochyliomorpha arenosana* Kuznetsov, Jalava & Kullberg, 1998 from Tuva. He also wrote many short notes in *Baptria*, the journal of the Finnish Lepidopterological Society, mostly reporting new faunistic records of Microlepidoptera and brief results of collecting trips, and contributed to several books dealing with the nature of Finland.

Jukka Jalava was friendly, helpful and supportive. He was keen to teach younger colleagues, and he identified their specimens and checked identifications. We will remember Jukka as a free-and-easy, social and colourful fellow.

SEPPO KOPONEN, JAAKKO KULLBERG, LAURI KAILA, and MIKHAIL KOZLOV

Main publications by Jukka Jalava

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